

REMARKS

The Applicant has reviewed the Examiner's Final Rejection dated March 25, 2004. The Applicant has amended claim 8. The Applicant hereby provides the following remarks concerning the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 4-14, 21, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. (US Patent 6,473,609 B1) in view of Griffin (US Pat No. 6,237,005 B1)

The Examiner's final rejection of claims 1, 4-14, 21 and 22 over Schwartz et al. in view of Griffin is improper and should be withdrawn. The Schwartz et al. reference has a filing date of September 14, 1998 and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/570,210 filed on December 11, 1995, now Patent No. 5,809,415. The Griffin reference has a filing date of June 29, 1998. The Applicant's filing date is May 26, 1998.

The Applicant has amended claim 8 to correct an error.

The Examiner has rejected claims 2, 3 as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. (US 6,473,609 B1) in view of Griffin (US Patent 6,237,005 B1) and further in view of Chang et al. (US Patent 6,104,719).

The Examiner's final rejection of claims 2, 3 over Schwartz et al. in view of Griffin and further in view of Chang et al. is improper and should be withdrawn. The Schwartz et al. reference has a filing date of September 14, 1998 and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/570,210 filed on December 11, 1995, now Patent No. 5,809,415. The Griffin reference has a filing date of June 29, 1998. The Applicant's filing date is May 26, 1998.

The Examiner has rejected claims 23, 24 as being unpatentable over Schwartz et al. (US 6,473,609 B1) in view of Griffin (US Patent 6,237,005 B1) and further in view of Duvall et al. (US Patent 5,884,033).


The Examiner's final rejection of claims 23, 24 over Schwartz et al. in view of Griffin and further in view of Duvall et al. is improper and should be withdrawn. The Schwartz et al. reference has a filing date of September 14, 1998 and is a continuation-in-part of application No. 08/570,210 filed on December 11, 1995, now

Patent No. 5,809,415. The Griffin reference has a filing date of June 29, 1998. The Applicant's filing date is May 26, 1998. As to the method of claim 3, the Examiner references the rejection of claim 2.

CONCLUSION

The Examiner's final rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) are improper and should be withdrawn. The application should be in a condition for allowance. In light of the forgoing, reconsideration of the claims is hereby requested, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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